

What is Claimed:

1. 1. A method for code-tracking in CDMA communication systems comprising
 2. a) receiving of an electromagnetic signal (10) being a superposition of a plurality of signal components of
 3. different signal paths (*i*),
 4. b) digitising (14) the received signal (10, 13),
 5. c) distributing the digitised signal (15) to receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., *N*) each of which is
 6. assigned to one of the signal paths,
 7. d) distributing the digitised signal (110, 111) to a detection stream and a synchronising stream,
 8. e) decorrelating (121, 122) the digitised signal by a code sequence (112) in the synchronisation stream and
 9. f) reducing the interference of at least one other (*j* ≠ *i*) than the signal component of the assigned signal path (*i*) with the signal component of the assigned signal path (*i*) in at least one of the receiver fingers.
 1. 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein step f) comprises a subtraction (130) of an interference signal from the decorrelated digitised signal (116).
 1. 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the subtraction takes place on symbol rate (1/T).
 1. 4. A method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein interference of other signal components (*j* ≠ *i*) than the assigned signal component (*i*) is reduced in all receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., *N*).
 1. 5. A method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein step e) comprises decorrelating (121, 122)

3 the digitised signal by multiplying the digitised
4 signal with a complex-conjugate pseudo-noise code
5 sequence (112).

1 6. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein an early-late timing error detection (102) is
3 provided in the synchronisation stream.

1 7. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein after step f) the real part (118, \tilde{x}) of the
3 interference reduced complex signal (\tilde{y}) is determined
4 (126).

1 8. A method according to one of claims 1 to 6, wherein
2 before step f) the real part (x) of the complex
3 signal (116, y) is determined (126).

1 9. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein after step f) the interference reduced signal
3 (118, \tilde{x}) is filtered (103) in a step g).

1 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein
2 steps e), f) and g) provide a code-tracking (101) of
3 the digitised signal (111).

1 11. A method according to claim 10, wherein
2 the code-tracking (101) provides an estimated timing
3 delay ($\hat{\tau}^{(i)}$) of the signal component of the assigned
4 signal path (i).

1 12. A method according to one of the preceding claims,
2 wherein prior to step f) the digitised signal (111)
3 is distributed to a first and second correlator (121,
4 122).

1 13. A method according to claim 12, wherein
2 the digitised signal (111) is time-shifted prior to
3 feeding it to the second correlator (122) providing

4 late and early estimates (113, 114) as output of the
5 first and second correlator (121, 122), respectively.

1 14. A method according to claim 13, wherein
2 the early and late estimates (114, 113) are
3 subtracted (124) yielding an intermediate signal
4 (117).

1 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the
2 intermediate signal (117) is multiplied (125) with
3 reconstructed transmitted symbols (115).

1 16. A rake receiver (17) for processing a received
2 electromagnetic signal (10) being a superposition of
3 signal components of different signal paths,
4 comprising

5 a plurality of receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., N),
6 wherein at least one of the receiver fingers (1,
7 2, ..., N) is adapted to receive a signal component
8 assigned to one of the signal paths (*i*) with
9 *i* ∈ {1, ..., N}

10 a timing error detector (102) for estimating an
11 error of a delay ($\hat{\tau}_k^{(i)}$) of the signal component of the
12 assigned signal path (*i*) and

13 an interference reduction device (131) adapted to
14 reduce the interference of at least one other signal
15 component (*j*) with $j \neq i$ and $j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ with the
16 said signal component of the assigned signal path
17 (*i*).

1 17. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 16, wherein
2 the interference reduction device (131) comprises an
3 interference computation module (132) being adapted
4 to receive complex path weights ($c_k^{(j)}$, 134) and path
5 delays ($\hat{\tau}_k^{(i)}$, $\hat{\tau}_k^{(j)}$) to compute an interference signal of

6 at least one other signal component (j) with the said
7 signal component of the assigned signal path (i).

1 18. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 16 or 17,
2 wherein
3 the interference reduction device (131) is adapted to
4 subtract (130) the interference signal of at least
5 one other signal component (j) from the said signal
6 component of the assigned signal path (i).

1 19. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the
2 preceding device claims, comprising an A/D-converter
3 (14) upstream of the receiver fingers (1, 2, ..., N),
4 for digitising the received signal (10, 13).

1 20. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the
2 preceding device claims, wherein the timing error
3 detector (102) comprises an early-late gate timing
4 error detector.

1 21. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the
2 preceding device claims, wherein each receiver finger
3 (1, 2, ..., N) comprises a loop filter (103).

1 22. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 21, wherein
2 each receiver finger (1, 2, ..., N) comprises a code-
3 tracking loop (101) comprising the timing error
4 detector (102) and the loop filter (103).

1 23. A rake receiver (17) according to claim 22, wherein
2 the code-tracking loop (101) is adapted to estimate a
3 timing delay ($\hat{\tau}^{(i)}$) of the signal component of the
4 assigned signal path (i).

1 24. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the
2 preceding device claims, wherein the timing error

3 detector (102) is adapted to provide pseudo-noise
4 (112) decorrelation
5 (121, 122).

1 25. A rake receiver (17) according to one of the
2 preceding device claims, which is adapted for direct-
3 sequence code-division multiple access communication.